

CITY INTELLIGENCE

For Additional City Intelligence see Fifth Page.

THE EXTENSION OF FAIRMOUNT PARK.—The following reports were submitted to Councils yesterday:

To the Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia:

Gentlemen: The joint special committee appointed to inquire into and ascertain whether improper influences were used to produce the excessive award made in pursuance of an ordinance appropriating ground for public purposes, passed June 27, 1864, and to whom was also referred "Resolution" in relation to the Committee on Law, directing that Committee to inquire whether or not the ordinance of June 27, 1864, can be lawfully repealed without subjecting the city to heavy damages, and all other matters of law or fact connected therewith, and with the payment of damages to the said owners," respectfully report that they held thirteen meetings and examined many witnesses, as will more fully appear by reference to the testimony, which is hereto appended.

The Committee request to have it stated that Mr. Elliott, one of the jury, although subpoenaed and notified to appear, refused to obey the subpoena, and they were without the power to compel his attendance, a defect in the law which demands correction. Having carefully examined and carefully weighed it, the Committee have arrived at the following conclusions, viz.:

First. That the jury was not composed of such persons as should have been selected for the determination of such an important matter involving the expenditure of nearly half a million of dollars. The evidence shows that they certainly lacked both integrity and judgment. Two of the jury, however, were honorable exceptions, viz. Messrs. Boyd and Marks. If the jury had been composed entirely of such men, the public must have been satisfied with the award.

The evidence does not show that any other influences were used by the property owners than such as were occasionally resorted to by the property, and at other times at the Falls of Schuylkill, the latter in a very sympathetic way, a custom which the Committee do not hesitate to disapprove of and condemn, and hope it may soon be abolished. The evidence of some of the owners shows that they were applied to by the jury for extra compensation, and if some of the jury are to be believed, Mr. Ervin agreed to raise them \$1000; and if Mr. Ervin is to be believed, the statement of the jury is untrue, and merely fabricated evidence. The Committee have no hesitation in saying that the award is in many of the cases excessive, and having been made by a jury a majority of whom lacked both integrity and judgment, ought not, as to these, be confirmed.

Secondly. That the Committee are of opinion that Councils have not the power to repeal the ordinance of June 27, 1864, if they have, it could not be done without subjecting the city to heavy damages, and, therefore, the city can only look to the Court having jurisdiction of the whole matter to protect her against so gross an imposition and wrong, and to confirm of the excessive award made.

G. B. HANCOCK,
(to enable a report to be made),
JOSHUA SPERING,
JAMES PAOR,
JAMES H. BELLINGTON,
JAMES A. FREEMAN,
H. MARCUS,
(to enable a report to be made).

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia:—Gentlemen:—The undersigned, a majority of the Joint Special Committee appointed to inquire into and ascertain whether improper influences were used to produce the excessive awards made in pursuance of an "ordinance appropriating ground for public purposes," passed June 27, 1864, not being able to permit—having heard the testimony of a number of the property owners interested, their agents and attorneys, five of the six jurors, as the law officers of the city, and the assessor of the ward in which this ground is situated—they are hereby submitting to you the result of their deliberations, in the language of the resolution under which the committee have acted, "sufficient reason to believe that improper influences were brought to bear by those interested in obtaining damages in excess of the real value of the property, to cause such excessive award."

The nature of these influences can be best determined by a careful perusal of the testimony principally of Mr. Ervin, the agent of the iron works property of Wheeler & Co., and of Messrs. Boyd & Sloan, two of the members of the jury by whom the award was made. The testimony of these witnesses is not harmonious, but on the contrary so flatly contradictory as to warrant the charge of wilful perjury against one or the other of them, these facts are not disputed, viz.:—That the jury, or a majority of them, were induced to make the award by conversations on the subject, and from the throwing out of vague hints and promises, that a liberal compensation would be their reward for the extended time taken up by the proceedings and the minor pay allowed them. This is borne out by the testimony of Mr. Boyd, who swears that he expected to receive money from one of the owners or his agent, Mr. Ervin, for his services on the jury. Upon what just grounds these expectations rested, must be decided in the present aspect of the case, by the conflicting testimony itself, it is to be hoped by the parties themselves before a proper tribunal.

The testimony of Mr. Ervin also alludes to an attempt made by one of the property owners to influence a juror by giving him, Mr. Sergeant Price, upon the supposition that he was a member of the jury; but owing to the failure of Mr. Price to attend the meetings of the Committee when notified, the allegation was thus compelled to rest upon insufficient testimony.

The testimony of Mr. Sloan avers that he was, on several occasions, promised a good thing by Mr. Krupp, one of the owners, which ended, after repeated inquiries what kind of a good thing was meant, in a good supper. The testimony of Mr. Boyd, however, in the order of the day, having been given both on the ground and at the Falls of Schuylkill, by Messrs. Ervin, Krupp, Fricks, and others. As a means of blurring the minds of jurors by their character and frequency, the undersigned, these supporters of improper influence, so pernicious in their effects as to call for their speedy abolition.

In view of the great importance of this matter to the taxpayers of Philadelphia, involving the expenditure of nearly half a million of dollars, the undersigned deem it their duty to say that, while the persons selected to determine upon this award were, with perhaps two credible exceptions, lacking both in judgment and integrity, as stated in the report signed by the majority of the Committee, the conduct of some of the property owners mentioned, occupying high positions in the community, in throwing tempting baits to weak human nature, has been highly and grossly improper.

Mr. Elliott, the only one of the jury who failed to appear before the Committee, is charged, by the testimony of Mr. Peter Kern, with asking for three hundred dollars, which Mr. Kern very properly refused to give him. The failure of the law to clothe this and similar objects of the Committee, to compel the attendance of witnesses summoned before them, enabled Mr. Elliott to evade an investigation. It is evident that an investigation like the present one can be defied and brought to naught by any one who is unscrupulously affected by its objects or purposes, and can be transformed into a farce at the will or whim of any one so disposed. The undersigned trust that proper authority will be obtained at the earliest practicable period to remedy this serious defect in the existing law.

The testimony elicited by the investigation further establishes the fact of the excessiveness of the award, particularly in the estimate laid

before the Committee, by the Assistant City Solicitor, Mr. Bellows, who, while frankly acknowledging himself in favor of the appropriation of the ground for the purposes named in the ordinance, at a reasonable and just compensation to the owners, and basing his estimate upon a close examination and a fair comparison of the testimony submitted to the jury, values the property at \$540,000, showing an excessive award of between \$140,000 and \$150,000.

The undersigned do not deem it irrelevant to a report on this subject, to show that this property was never, up to the time of the passage of the ordinance, valued at more than three hundred thousand dollars, although proven in part by other than the testimony elicited by the present investigation. A special committee of Common Councils of the present session, presided over by that Chamber was chairman, to whom the ordinance appropriating the ground was referred, reported, "after a careful examination of the premises," and having the written opinion of Mr. Hines, the Surveyor of the District, that the value of the property was not more than \$200,000, that the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, in excess of the sum of three hundred thousand dollars," (Appendix to Journal of C. C. 1864, vol. i, p. 485.)

To show further, however, that the Mayor of the city, when this matter came before him officially, did not agree with the Committee in so far as that the real value of the property would be the mean of the award, the undersigned append the concluding extract from the veto message of Mayor Henry, of March 16th, 1865:—"Unless a sum be determined upon as a limit which the city will pay, the award of the jury may and probably will far exceed the reasonable remuneration which the owners should receive."

In view of what has taken place this language is prophetic, and the Councils of that year would have done well to heed the warning thus uttered, and by limiting the amount to be paid for the property in question, would have saved the city from one to two hundred thousand dollars.

According to the joint report of the Committee on Water and City Property in 1862, "with the exception of some old brick houses on Coates street, and a new hotel on Landing avenue, the property was in a very sympathetic way, a custom which the Committee do not hesitate to disapprove of and condemn, and hope it may soon be abolished. The evidence of some of the owners shows that they were applied to by the jury for extra compensation, and if some of the jury are to be believed, Mr. Ervin agreed to raise them \$1000; and if Mr. Ervin is to be believed, the statement of the jury is untrue, and merely fabricated evidence. The Committee have no hesitation in saying that the award is in many of the cases excessive, and having been made by a jury a majority of whom lacked both integrity and judgment, ought not, as to these, be confirmed."

Inasmuch as the matter of repealing the ordinance of June 27, 1864, was referred to the Committee, by the Select Council, one or more meetings were devoted to its consideration, and the attendance of the City Solicitor, and his opinion upon this point, was requested and obtained. In answer relating to the subject, the opinion expressed in his reply to a similar inquiry by the Committee on Law, viz.—"that the mere repeal of the ordinance would not be attended with damages to the city, adding that such a course would tend to strengthen the hands of the law officers of the city, and the prosecution of the case before the Courts, while it was admitted that such a repeal would not deprive prosecution by owners of property for real or supposed damages by reason of the breaking off of proceedings, and that the undersigned are, therefore, recommending that the ordinance be repealed, and the ground to be used of the city, and the public good to be derived from the appropriation of this property for the purposes named in the ordinance, will warrant the necessary measures, are questions to be determined by the Courts, and it is not, whether it is sound policy to risk prosecutions for damages by such of the owners as would consider themselves aggrieved by such corresponding action on the part of the City, or whether it is better to permit the owners to leave the members of the respective Chambers, that they may for themselves determine, after a careful consideration, with the flood of light that has been opened upon this whole matter, and the interests of the constituents demand at their hands."

Respectfully submitted,
GEORGE J. HETZELL,
J. B. HANCOCK,
J. H. MARCUS.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE GREAT FRANKFORD FIRE.—Loss \$1,500,000.—The fire in the Twenty-Third Ward yesterday afternoon, an account of which we published in our fifth edition, by which the Tacony Print Works were destroyed, was one of the most destructive conflagrations that has visited this city for some time. The entire structure, with the exception of a few one-story buildings, was entirely consumed by five o'clock.

The works were situated on a five-acre lot, at the corner of Orchard street and Tacony road. The magnitude of the establishment may be judged when it is understood that the factory covered at least one-half of its ground. The factory was the largest of its kind in Pennsylvania, employing about 300 persons in the various departments. The fire made its appearance in the upper story of the main building, a four-story structure of stone. It is also reported that the fire broke out about the same time in the first story, at the further end of the building.

An alarm was promptly given, and the flames, fanned by a strong breeze, spread so rapidly to permit the firemen to save the property, or to enable the operatives to rescue the goods. The main building, used for printing calicoes, was 260 feet by 60, and nothing but the walls were left standing. The building was entirely destroyed. Running along Orchard street was a three-story brick structure, about 350 feet in length, used for engraving, mechanical works, designing, office, etc. This was saved. At right angles with this building was another brick structure, in which all the carpenter work was done. This building was destroyed.

Beyond this was a one-story dyeing house; next were two buildings, one story in height. These were destroyed. To the rear of the "Grey Room" was a large one-story building, of stone, used as a bleaching house, and adjoining this was the cylinder and another boiler-room, supplying power to the main building. This was destroyed. On the Tacony road, beyond the extreme end of the main building, was a one-story stone structure, which was partially destroyed. The chemical house and stables were saved.

It is difficult to estimate the loss. The goods on hand belonged to parties in New York, who sent them to Mr. Lippincott, proprietor of the establishment, to be printed. The loss in the "Grey Room" would reach over \$200,000; drugs and chemicals, \$100,000; the printed goods \$100,000; and the loss in other departments, including machinery, etc., will, according to the foreman, amount to more than \$800,000. Mr. Lippincott so he prepared for another attempt, the hose and pump belonging to the establishment were put in perfect order, and as late as Wednesday were found to be in good condition. The fire yesterday

day broke out in a room in the main building not used, and when the hose was brought into requisition it was discovered that some one had tampered with it, and that it was of no service.

The operatives attempted to save the goods, but the rapid spread of the flames soon drove upon a close examination and a fair comparison of the testimony submitted to the jury, values the property at \$540,000, showing an excessive award of between \$140,000 and \$150,000.

The presence of a large quantity of oil of vitriol added greatly to the fury of the flames.

PROCEEDINGS IN COUNCILS.—The stated meeting of Councils was held yesterday afternoon.

Select Council.—A communication was received from the Mayor, announcing that under the recent ordinance he had entered into a contract with Henry Bickley, of the Northern District, from August 1 to January 1, 1867, at the rate of \$60,000 per annum.

Mr. Barlow submitted a resolution approving the sureties of Mr. Bickley, under the above contract. Agreed to.

The Mayor's committee, appointed to act in conjunction with a committee of the members of the bar to proceed to Harrisburg and aid in increasing the number of and the compensation of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, reported a bill for the expenses incurred, amounting to \$109-95. The bill was passed finally.

A bill was reported providing for the appropriation of \$1000 to pay the salaries of such of the Police Magistrates of the city as comply with the law and return the amount of fines and costs collected. Referred to Finance Committee.

An ordinance providing for an appropriation of \$10,000 to the Board of Health for sanitary purposes, and for the use of the Committee on Health. It was passed finally.

The same Committee reported an ordinance making an appropriation of \$7000 to the Board of Health, for the removal of nuisances. The bill was passed finally.

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EXCITED ON THE DOG QUESTION.—The citizens residing at Frankford, Twenty-third Ward, have been considerably exercised during the past week on the subject of dogs. A mad dog ran through the place, biting quite a number of canines. The citizens turned out with shot guns, and exterminated all the animals known to have been bitten that could be found. The Mayor was then appealed to, and yesterday High Constable Daniel, with a posse of dog-catchers, made his appearance in Frankford, and captured twenty dogs found at large.

It is said there are several dogs which were bitten by the mad dog whose owners keep them locked up out of reach of citizens and officials. One of these dogs so kept up was bitten until the blood ran from the wound, and yet the owner refused to kill him. Legal measures will doubtless be instituted, not only in his case, but in that of others similarly situated. The citizens are determined to have these animals exterminated, and the end of the excitement is not yet.

CLOSED.—The office of the City Treasurer will be closed to-morrow (Saturday), in consequence of the death of the daughter of Mr. Bumm, City Treasurer.

MATTERS OVER THE RIVER.

THE EXCESSIVE HEAT.—The heat during the past few days has crowded the seaside water-places to overflowing with those who can leave their business sufficiently long to enable them to get away. Cape Island receives an addition to its visitors on the arrival of every train, and the hotels there are now assuming an active and lively appearance. At the same time the spacious boarding-houses and public hotels are in progress by the proprietors and others to furnish such accommodations as will contribute to the pleasure and amusement of the visitors, while the bathing adds very materially to the luxuries at those places in such hot weather.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS.—The Board of Assessors of Camden county, at their recent meeting, have passed the assessment of taxes as follows:—North Ward—Amount assessed, \$3,675,000; State quota, \$375,000; County quota, \$22,968-75. Middle Ward—Amount assessed, \$1,775,000; State quota, \$180,375; County quota, \$11,035-75. South Ward—Amount assessed, \$1,230,000; State quota, \$123,000; County quota, \$7,500-00. This is the rate for the three wards of Camden. The assessed valuation of taxable property in the entire county is \$16,000,000. The percentage for State quota is 104 cents per \$100; for County, 46 cents per \$100, making a total of 72 1/2 cents per \$100.

NEW CHURCH.—The members of the First Presbyterian Church, Camden, under the able ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Reed, are taking measures to erect a new and more commodious church edifice; the old building, although conveniently arranged and large, is inadequate to accommodate the attendance, and hence the necessity of a larger one.

A GOOD CHANGE.—Laborers in Camden city and county are now very scarce, notwithstanding an increase in the price of wages. This is true especially of mechanics—carpenters, masons, and workers in iron. It was not long ago when there could be found an every street corner; now they seem to be busy.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.—On Tuesday a man named Jonathan Hollander, of Camden county, was killed by being thrown from his wagon. William Eldridge, of the same county, was so severely injured a day or two previously, by a pole falling on him, that he died from the effects of it a few hours afterwards.

ADMITTED TO THE BAR.—J. Eugene Troth, Esq., a young and talented gentleman in Camden, has been admitted to practice at the Bar as an attorney for New Jersey.

WHISKY, BRANDY, WINE, ETC.

CHESNUT GROVE WHISKY.

No. 223 North THIRD Street.

11 anything was wanted to prove the absolute purity of this Whisky, the following certificates should do it. There is no other similar known source of such high quality.

We have carefully tested the sample of CHESNUT GROVE WHISKY which you send us, and find that it contains none of the poisonous materials known to be in the whisky which is the characteristic and injurious ingredient of the whisky in general use.

ROOTH, GARRITT & CAMAC, Analytical Chemists.

NEW YORK, September 8, 1865.

I have analyzed a sample of CHESNUT GROVE WHISKY received from Mr. Charles W. H. Philadelphia; and having carefully tested it, I am pleased to state that it is entirely free from poisonous materials known to be in the whisky which is the characteristic and injurious ingredient of the whisky in general use.

Respectfully,
JAMES H. HILL, M.D., Analytical Chemist.

BOSTON, March 7, 1859.

I have made a chemical analysis of commercial samples of CHESNUT GROVE WHISKY, which proves to be free from the heavy metallic salts known to be in the whisky which is the characteristic and injurious ingredient of the whisky in general use.

Respectfully,
JAMES H. HILL, M.D., Analytical Chemist.

For sale by barrel, demijohn, or bottle at No. 223 North THIRD Street Philadelphia.

LONG WORTH'S

CELEBRATED

CATAWBA WINES.

J. W. HAMMAR,

SOLE AGENT.

No. 620 MARKET Street.

M. NATHANS & SONS,

IMPORTERS

OF

BRANDIES, WINES, GINS,

Etc. Etc.

No. 19 North FRONT Street.

PHILADELPHIA.

GEORGE PLOWMAN,

CARPENTER AND BUILDER.

No. 232 CARTER Street.

And No. 141 DOCK Street.

Machine Work and Millwrighting promptly attended to.

INSURANCE COMPANIES

DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY.
INCORPORATED IN THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1850.
OFFICE, 80 CORNER THIRD AND WALNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.

ON VESSELS, To all parts of the world.
FREIGHT, ON Goods by River, Canal, Lake and Land Carriage to all parts of the Union.

ON MERCHANDISE generally, On Stores, Lumber, Houses, etc.

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY
January 1, 1865.

\$100,000 United States 5 per cent. loan, 7 1/2% 7,500 00
100,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. 6,000 00
100,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. 6,000 00

20,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. 1,200 00
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